

July 29, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Ms. Jane Vezeris  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Office of Administration  
United States Secret Service  
1800 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20223

Re: United States Secret Service Compliance with the JFK Assassination Records  
Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107

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Dear Ms. Vezeris:

Following up on my July 17 letter to you, I am writing to address several remaining, important issues with respect to completion of the Secret Service's work under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 ("JFK Act"). They are as follows, and we recommend that these matters be addressed in the Secret Service's Final Declaration of Compliance where appropriate:

1. Files of Secret Service Chief James Rowley

Please provide us with any information the Secret Service has regarding the existence and disposition of any working files that may have been separately maintained by James Rowley, Secret Service Chief at the time of the assassination. Please also definitively confirm whether or not the Secret Service visited James Rowley's home in 1992 to inventory records that he may have had. If there are any records relating to this visit (if this visit indeed occurred as reported to us), then please make any such records available for our inspection. We have raised this matter with you previously. *See* Review Board Request No. SS-1; December 31, 1997 Review Board Letter to the Secret Service, at ¶ 1; and June 26, 1998 Review Board Letter to the Secret Service, at ¶ C.2.

2. Files of the Chief of Protective Research, Robert Bouck

Ms. Jane Vezeris  
July 29, 1998  
Page 2

Please provide any information the Secret Service has with respect to the existence and disposition of any working files that may have been separately maintained by Robert Bouck, Chief of the Protective Research Service at the time of the assassination. We previously raised this matter with you. See Review Board Request No. 11 and December 31, 1997 Review Board Letter, at ¶ 11.

3. Files of Inspector Thomas J. Kelley

Please provide any information the Secret Service has with respect to the existence and disposition of any working files that may have been separately maintained by Inspector Thomas J. Kelley, who was involved in assisting the Warren Commission in its investigation. This matter also has been raised with you previously. See Review Board Request No. 12 and December 31, 1997 Review Board Letter, at ¶ 12. We consider the issue of identifying any working files of Messrs. Rowley, Bouck, and Kelley to be very important, and we ask that you do what you reasonably can to account for any such files.

4. Presidential Protection Survey Reports

We have not resolved with the Secret Service the issue of whether to release Protective Survey Reports for President Kennedy for the period January 1961 to March 1963.<sup>1</sup> These constitute a detailed source of information regarding President Kennedy's travel, whereabouts, and activities during his administration. We feel they would undoubtedly contribute to the historical record regarding the Kennedy administration. It is my understanding that these records are physically located at the National Archives, but remain closed. We raise with the Secret Service whether it would be prepared to open these records in full or part, and whether it believes it can do so without disclosing any present procedures for Presidential security. Please give us your views on this matter.

In addition, there are two Protective Survey Reports that are missing from the Secret Service's archive files, and we had asked that they be accounted for (see December 31, 1997 Review Board Letter to the Secret Service, at ¶ 4). These folders are captioned "Other Places Folder No. 6 -- July-November 1963," and "Berlin Protective Survey Report from June 26, 1963."

5. Destruction of Presidential Protection Surveys

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<sup>1</sup> My understanding is that Protective Survey Reports for the latter part of 1963 are open in the JFK Collection.

Ms. Jane Vezeris  
July 29, 1998  
Page 3

We recognize that the Secret Service has already provided, in writing and in a presentation to the Review Board, an explanation regarding destruction of certain archival records relating to Presidential trip reports for President Kennedy. We simply ask that the Secret Service attach to its Final Declaration, and incorporate by reference, its July 31, 1995 and March 28, 1996 letters explaining the circumstances for this destruction (the Service did this for its initial Compliance Statement).

6. Protective Research Files Relating to Dallas, Texas in 1963

We had requested that the Secret Service make available for our inspection certain protective intelligence files relating to the Dallas, Texas area in 1963. See June 26, 1998 Review Board Letter, at ¶ C.1. Synopses of these case files were presented to the Warren Commission through the testimony of Robert Bouck. See Warren Comm'n Ex. No. 762 (discussing Secret Service file nos. CO-2-33,664, CO-2-33,996, and CO-2-34, 007); R. Bouck Testimony, Warren Comm'n Hearings, Vol. IV, at 300. We recently learned from the Secret Service that these files have been destroyed. In view of the fact that information in these files was presented to the Warren Commission and contained information relating to threats to President Kennedy in the Dallas, Texas area, we consider it essential for the Secret Service to provide, in the Final Declaration of Compliance, all information regarding the circumstances for the destruction of these original files, including when the files were destroyed and under what authorization. If you have reason to believe that copies of these files reside in the Warren Commission, HSCA, or Church Committee files, please advise us.

7. Protective Research File Relating to Fair Play for Cuba Committee

Based on our recent inspection of a Secret Service logbook identifying protective research files opened in the 1960's, we learned that the Secret Service had a file for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee ("FPCC") (file no. CO-2-29,983). The logbook indicates, however, that the file was destroyed. In view of Lee Harvey Oswald's affiliation with the FPCC, and the Warren Commission's interest in information on the FPCC, we believe that the existence of a Secret Service file on the FPCC is of public interest and is relevant under the JFK Act. Accordingly, please provide, in the Final Declaration, any information whatsoever regarding Secret Service records on the FPCC, including the date that the protective intelligence file was opened, the reason the file was opened, any substantive information that may have been contained within the file, and the circumstances for the destruction of the file, including when it was destroyed and under what authority. To the extent that you have any documentation regarding the FPCC or disposition of any files, please make those records available to the Review Board. If you have reason to believe that a copy of the FPCC file is among the records of the Warren Commission, HSCA, or the Church

Ms. Jane Vezeris  
July 29, 1998  
Page 4

Committee, please advise us.

8. Photographs Regarding the Assassination

The Review Board learned of a Washington Post article reporting that the "Secret Service produced rare photographs of John F. Kennedy's fateful 1963 motorcade through Dallas" at a May meeting between the Secret Service and the Office of Independent Counsel. See P. Baker and S. Schmidt, "Secret Service Chief Wants No Testimony," *The Washington Post*, May 14, 1998, at A1, A14-15. We inquired previously about these photographs (see June 26, 1998 Review Board Letter, at ¶ C.3), and we again request that these be made available for our inspection. In addition, the Secret Service should confirm whether or not it retains any non-public photographs relating to the assassination. This should be addressed in the Final Declaration of Compliance.

9. Inventory of Assassination Records in the JFK Collection

If you have an index or inventory of Secret Service records that have been placed in the JFK Collection, we would appreciate obtaining a copy. We particularly would like to have a list that identifies the archive accession and box from which each assassination record was obtained. We are not asking that you create such a list; rather, we ask for this information to the extent it is readily available. This would assist us in verifying the Secret Service's work under the JFK Act and in assessing the remaining work to be done. You also may want to consider attaching such a list to the Secret Service's Final Declaration of Compliance to demonstrate the nature and extent of records the Service has released.

10. Release of Additional Designated Assassination Records

The Review Board has recently designated, or will likely designate, certain additional records to be included in the JFK Collection at the National Archives. Accordingly, it is my understanding that the Secret Service will process and place into the JFK Collection the following additional records:

- a. Approximately 70 records identified from our further review of Secret Service archival files [SS-21]. These records were designated as assassination records by the Review Board at its July 21, 1998 meeting.
- b. Secret Service files maintained on various anti-Castro groups, including Alpha 66, Commandos L, JURE, DRE, and others [SS-13]. These are currently being referred to other

Ms. Jane Vezeris  
July 29, 1998  
Page 5

agencies for their review and will, thereafter, be presented to the Review Board for designation as assassination records.

c. Records that the Review Board staff identified, on July 27, 1998, from their review of approximately 10 files relating to anti-Castro activists. [SS-17/SS-21]. These will be presented to the Review Board for designation as assassination records.

d. A master logbook listing protective intelligence files for the early 1960's. This will be presented to the Review Board so that they may consider whether it should be designated as an assassination record. Please advise us whether the Secret Service will claim postponements or otherwise oppose inclusion of this logbook in the JFK Collection.

e. We are presently considering whether to recommend designating, as assassination records, certain materials from various records relating to organized crime that were made available for our review [SS-18].

There may be some additional, miscellaneous records to be processed under the JFK Act. With the departure of attorney Kim Herd, Review Board analyst Sarah Ahmed will be responsible for Secret Service matters and can coordinate with John Machado regarding release of remaining records. Please keep us apprised of any postponements that the Secret Service will claim. In the event that certain records have not been released by the time the Secret Service submits its Final Declaration of Compliance, we ask that the Secret Service identify those records and represent, in its Final Declaration, that they will be processed and placed in the JFK Collection at the National Archives.

## 11. Conclusion

Aside from these specific issues, we request that the Final Declaration restate (and update, as appropriate) all information contained in the Secret Service's initial Statement of Compliance. We again request that the Secret Service submit its Final Declaration by August 17 so that we have an opportunity to take account of the Final Declaration in our Final Report to the President and Congress.

Ms. Jane Vezeris  
July 29, 1998  
Page 6

Thank you again for your continued cooperation, particularly as we attempt to finish our work in the next two months. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or wish to discuss any of these issues.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron  
General Counsel

cc: Donald Personette, Deputy Chief Counsel  
Secret Service

Ms. Jane Vezeris  
July 29, 1998  
Page 7

1. Completion of the Secret Service's Work Under the JFK Act

1. Please provide information with regard to the scope and content of Chief Rowley's filing system. Provide information as to the existence and disposition of any working files of Chief Rowley. Please describe your search efforts.
2. As requested in two previous letters, please provide information with respect to the Secret Service's visit to Chief James Rowley's home in 1992, and provide inventoried records and any videotape of such a visit. Also, please identify other such visits with Secret Service officials who may have had a role in the investigation of the Kennedy assassination.
3. With regard to Protective Survey Reports, John Machado has indicated that he would continue to search for two folders that were not found with the other survey reports - These folders were entitled, "Other Places Folder" #6 July - November 1963 and the Berlin Protective Survey Report from June 26, 1963. In the event the Secret Service has not located these files, it should document all of its search efforts to try to find them.
4. The Record - years 1960 - 1964.
5. Protective Surveys from January, 1961 - March 1963. At our December meeting, we had informed John Machado that the Board was considering whether to designate these materials as "assassination records" We asked Machado to talk with you about what your position would be.
6. Please confirm in writing that all of the information contained within the original Abraham Bolden file has in fact been transferred to NARA.
7. Please detail your efforts at searching for other records pertaining to internal security review of Secret Service agents who were working with the White House Detail, the Protective Research Section, or the Dallas Field Office at the time of the assassination.

